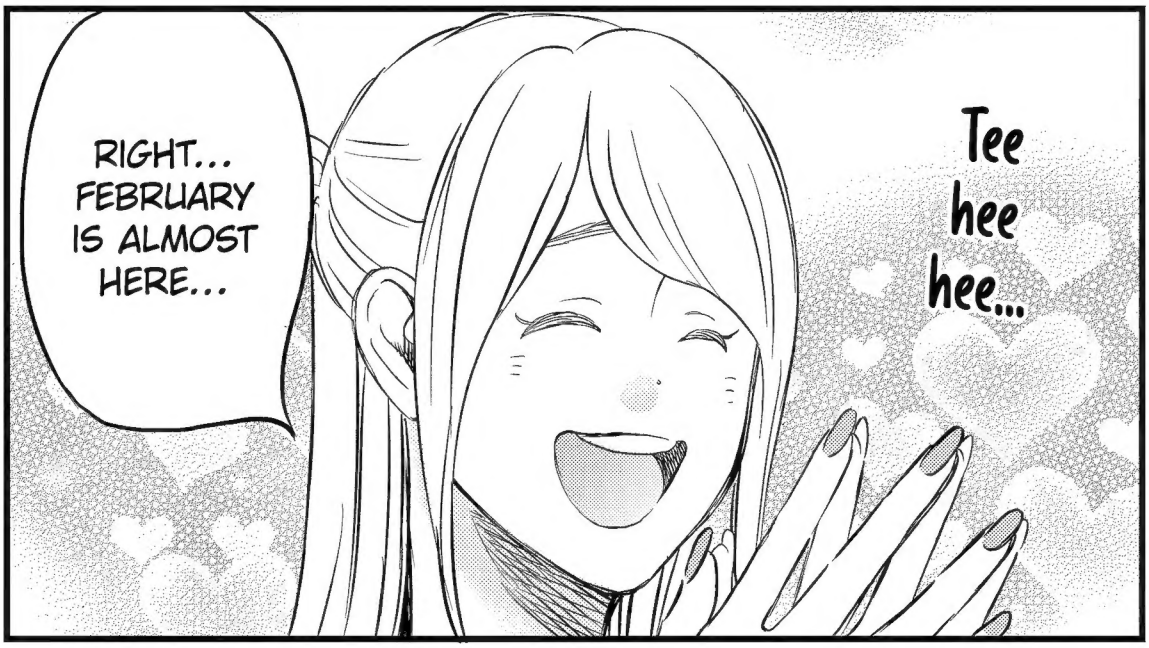
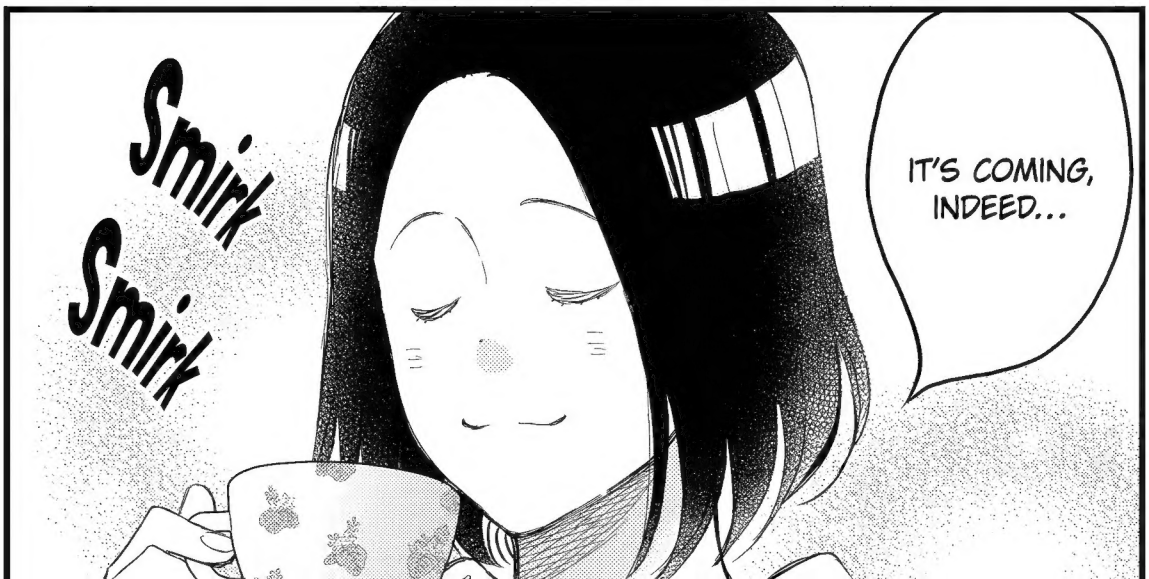
Extra Chapter: The World of Chocolate

Smirk Smirk
IT'S ALMOST FEBRUARY, HUH?

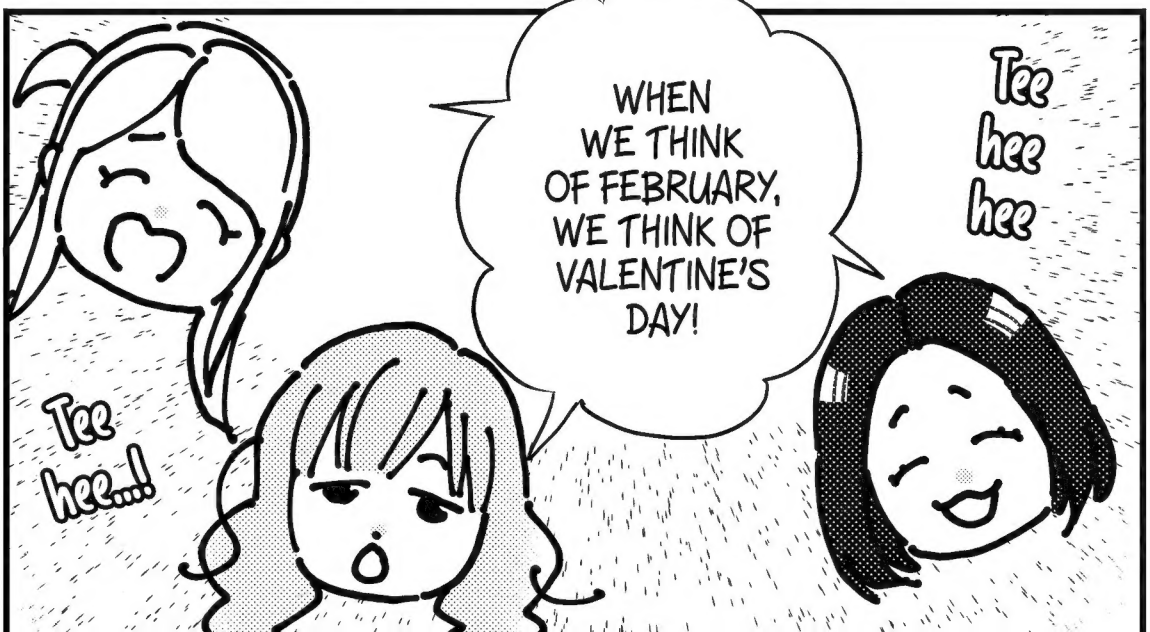

RIGHT... FEBRUARY IS ALMOST HERE...
Tee hee hee...

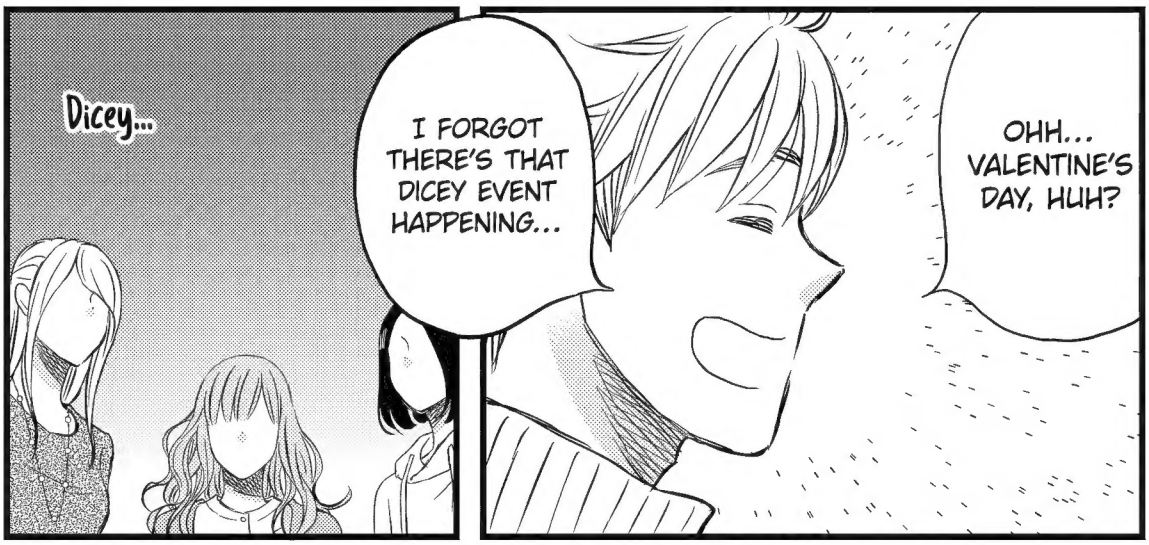

Smirk Smirk
IT'S COMING, INDEED...

...
...?

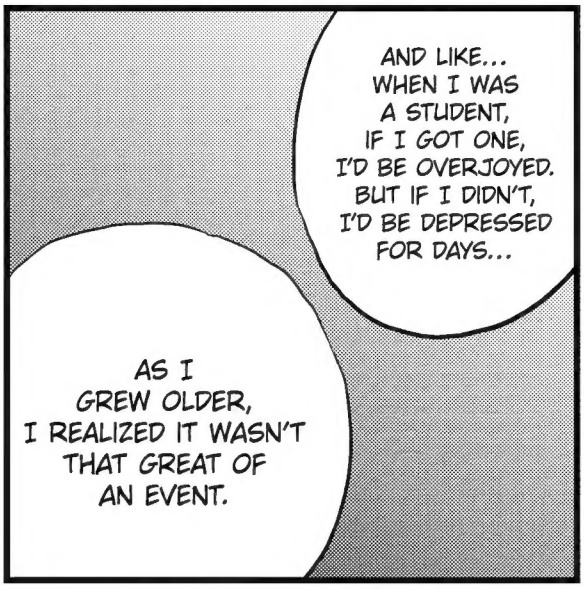
IS SOMETHING HAPPENING IN FEBRUARY?
...
...

OH, RIGHT. I GUESS IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL FOR MEN...
WELL, I MEAN... IT'S NOT LIKE ALL WOMEN CARE ABOUT IT, EITHER.
I DON'T THINK I'M FOLLOWING...


WHEN WE THINK OF FEBRUARY, WE THINK OF VALENTINE'S DAY!
Tee hee hee
Tee hee...!


Dicey...
I FORGOT THERE'S THAT DICEY EVENT HAPPENING...
OHH... VALENTINE'S DAY, HUH?

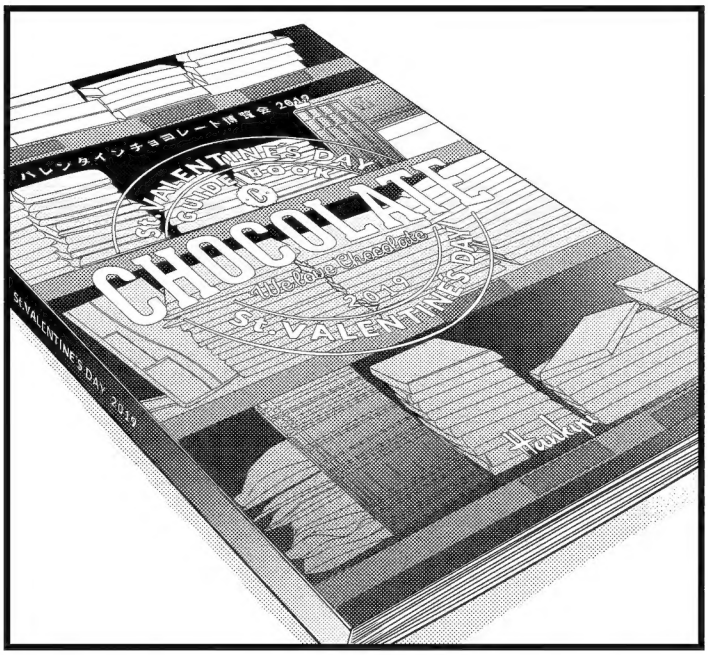
W-WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING...?
YOU CERTAINLY HAVE GUTS...
RUMBLE...
DICEY... HUH?
...HEH HEH HEH! TO CALL VALENTINE'S DAY A DICEY EVENT RIGHT IN FRONT OF US...
WHAT'S WITH THAT THREATENING AURA...?!


AND LIKE... WHEN I WAS A STUDENT, IF I GOT ONE, I'D BE OVERJOYED. BUT IF I DIDN'T, I'D BE DEPRESSED FOR DAYS...
AS I GREW OLDER, I REALIZED IT WASN'T THAT GREAT OF AN EVENT.

BUT I MEAN... ISN'T IT ALSO A BOTHERSOME EVENT FOR WOMEN?
YOU DON'T OWE ANYONE CHOCOLATE, AND YET YOU'RE SOMEWHAT FORCED TO HAND IT OUT...

Clench...
THE DAYS OF CHOOSING CHOCOLATE FOR SOMEONE ELSE ARE MOSTLY BEHIND US...
TRUE, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WORKED AT THE OFFICE WHEN I FELT THE SAME WAY. HOWEVER!
VALENTINE'S DAY HAS ENTERED A NEW ERA!
THESE DAYS...
Bam!
YOU NO LONGER DO IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE. YOU DO IT FOR YOURSELF...!
OHH...
...

BLUNT...
I JUST THINK IT'S DELICIOUS, LIKE MOST PEOPLE.
...I DON'T LOVE CHOCOLATE, BUT I DO LIKE IT.
HAVE YOU ALWAYS LIKED CHOCOLATE SO MUCH? I HAD NO IDEA...
IS THAT SO?! I WAS STARTING TO THINK THAT EVERYONE WAS CRAZY ABOUT IT!


CHOCOLATE
S&VALENTINE'S DAY 2019

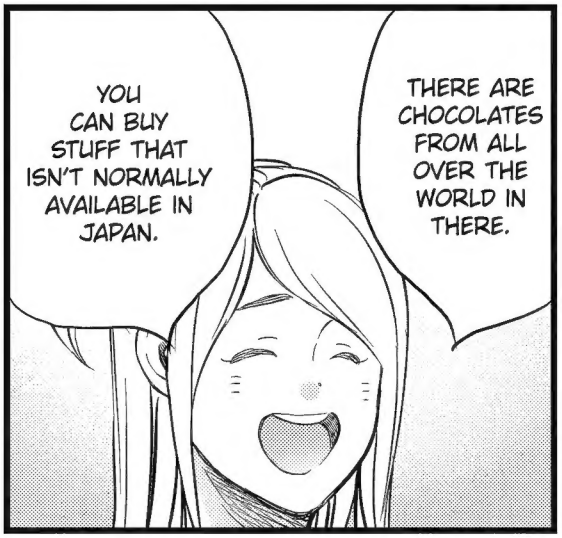
Whisper
Whisper
WELL... TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, KIRISHIMA-SAN!
HUH...?

Thick...
S&VALENTINE'S DAY 2019

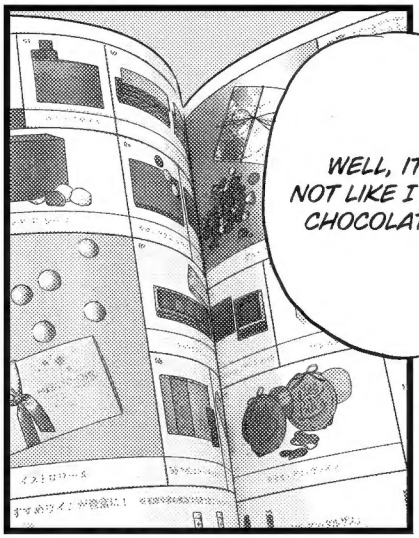
IT'S A BOOKLET ADVERTISING A SPECIAL VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT AT A CERTAIN DEPARTMENT STORE.
THAT'S NOT A BOOK.
OHH? I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE BOOKS LIKE THIS...
AN INTRODUCTORY BOOK TO CHOCOLATE?

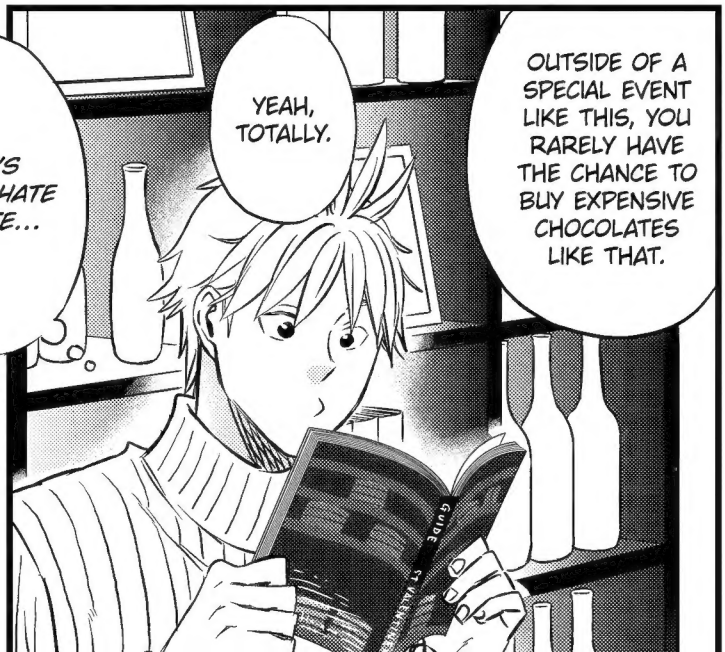
WHAAAT...? WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO VALENTINE'S DAY...?
WELL... THESE DAYS, IT'S PRETTY MUCH LIKE A FESTIVAL.
IT'S QUITE FUN...!

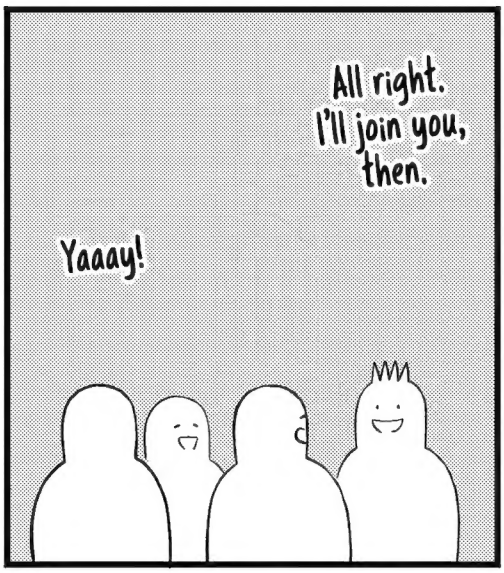
A BOOKLET?! ISN'T THIS WAY TOO THICK TO BE CALLED A BOOKLET?!!
IT'S MUCH BIGGER THAN I WAS EXPECTING!
THIS TYPE OF BOOKLET IS FREQUENTLY FOUND IN CONVENIENCE STORES AND SUPERMARKETS.
Valentine's Day
CHOCOLATE ART
MILK
MILK
MILK

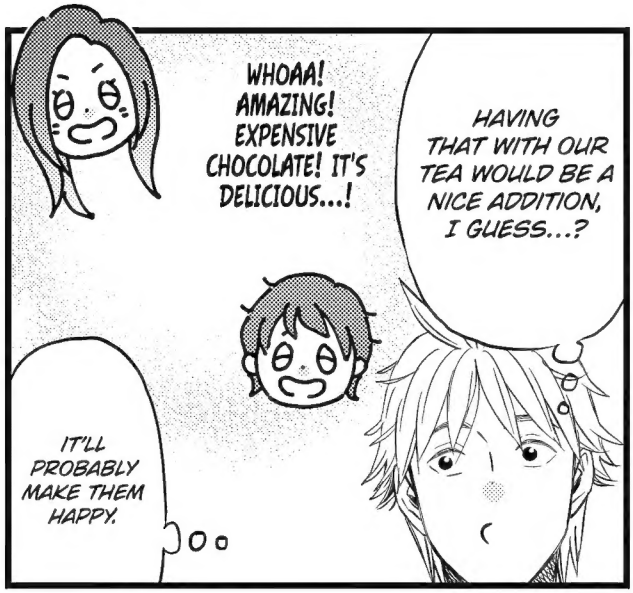

YOU CAN BUY STUFF THAT ISN'T NORMALLY AVAILABLE IN JAPAN.
THERE ARE CHOCOLATES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN THERE.

LET'S GO TO THAT EVENT TOGETHER, KIRISHIMA-SAN.
AND TRADE CHOCOLATES AS FRIENDS...
CHOCOLATE, HUH...?


WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE CHOCOLATE...

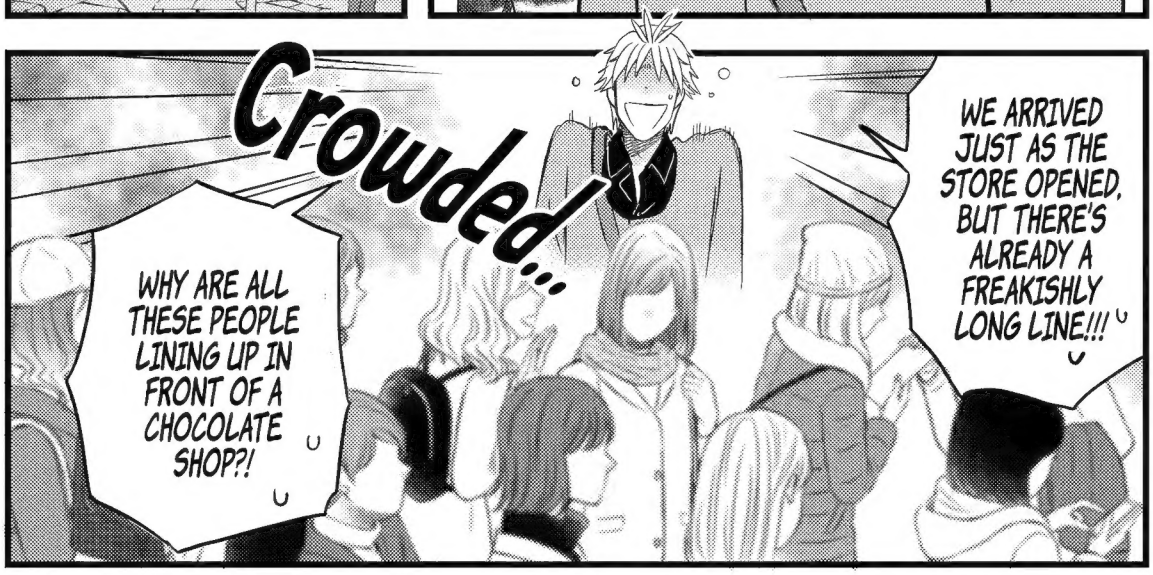

YEAH, TOTALLY.
OUTSIDE OF A SPECIAL EVENT LIKE THIS, YOU RARELY HAVE THE CHANCE TO BUY EXPENSIVE CHOCOLATES LIKE THAT.

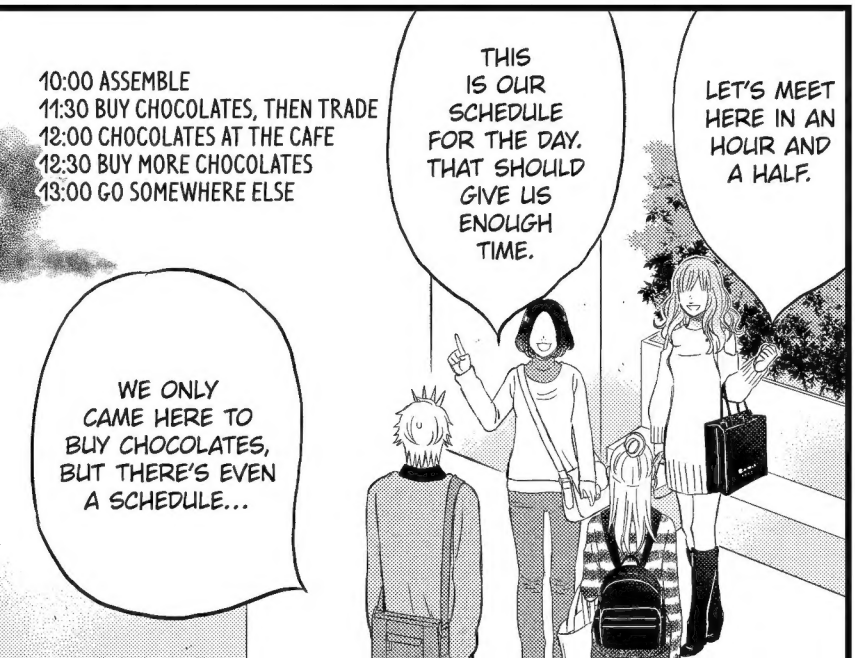


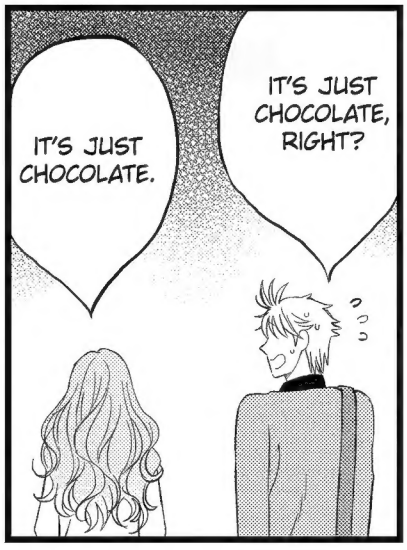


BUZZ BUZZ
BUZZ BUZZ
Chatter
Chatter

ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE TO BUY CHOCOLATE?
ONCE AGAIN, THIS IS BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS...!


Crowded...
WHY ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE LINING UP IN FRONT OF A CHOCOLATE SHOP?!
WE ARRIVED JUST AS THE STORE OPENED, BUT THERE'S ALREADY A FREAKISHLY LONG LINE!!!

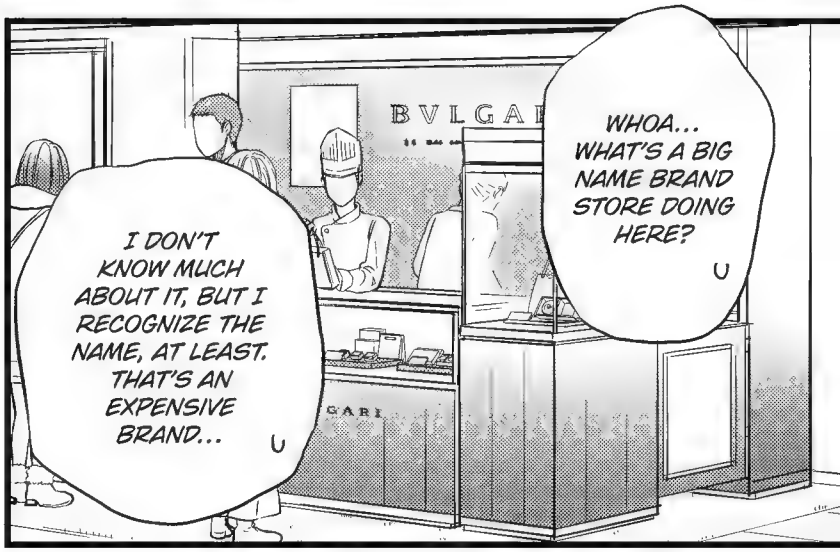

10:00 ASSEMBLE
11:30 BUY CHOCOLATES, THEN TRADE
12:00 CHOCOLATES AT THE CAFE
12:30 BUY MORE CHOCOLATES
13:00 GO SOMEWHERE ELSE
WE ONLY CAME HERE TO BUY CHOCOLATES, BUT THERE'S EVEN A SCHEDULE...
THIS IS OUR SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY. THAT SHOULD GIVE US ENOUGH TIME.
LET'S MEET HERE IN AN HOUR AND A HALF.


IT'S JUST CHOCOLATE.
IT'S JUST CHOCOLATE, RIGHT?

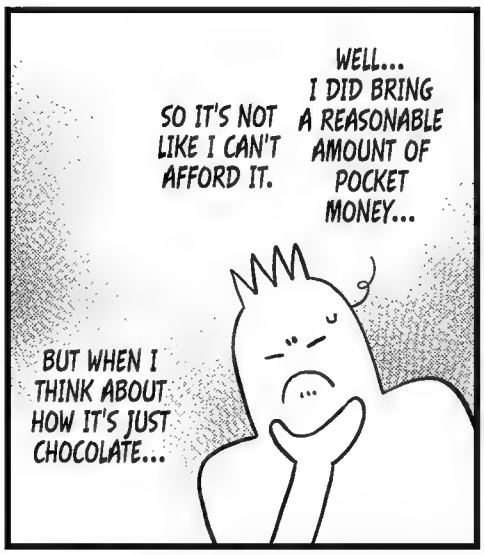
I'VE BEEN AN ADULT FOR QUITE SOME TIME, BUT THERE'S STILL A LOT OUT THERE THAT I'M NOT AWARE OF...

...I FEEL AS IF I'VE JUST STEPPED INTO AN INCREDIBLE NEW WORLD...

WHAT?! DO THEY SELL CHOCOLATES, TOO?
AMAZING. YOU CAN EVEN BUY CHOCOLATES FROM SUCH A FAMOUS BRAND...


WHOA... WHAT'S A BIG NAME BRAND STORE DOING HERE?
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT I RECOGNIZE THE NAME, AT LEAST. THAT'S AN EXPENSIVE BRAND...

Eeek...!
NO WAY?! THESE CHOCOLATES COST NEARLY A THOUSAND YEN A PIECE...!


WELL... I DID BRING A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF POCKET MONEY...
SO IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN'T AFFORD IT.
BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW IT'S JUST CHOCOLATE...

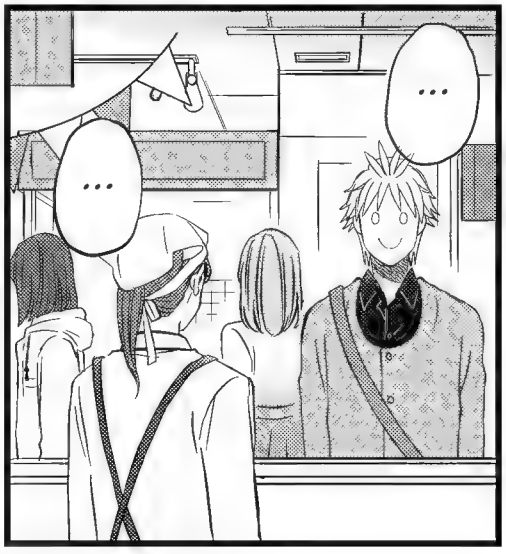
SERIOUSLY...? SO THE IDEA IS TO EXCHANGE THE CHOCOLATES YOU BOUGHT HERE...?
UPON CLOSER INSPECTION, ALL THE SHOPS HERE SELL FAIRLY EXPENSIVE CHOCOLATES.
THAT'S QUITE THE TASK...
They did warn me it was expensive, but...

THE REGISTER IS OVER THERE...
OF COURSE! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I'LL HAVE ONE OF THESE, PLEASE!
Step step step...

I'M GRATEFUL THAT I CAN SAMPLE THE CHOCOLATES BEFORE BUYING THEM.
OH! THEY'RE GIVING AWAY FREE SAMPLES.
IF YOU'D LIKE, TRY ONE OF THESE PLEASE...!

...SHE ISN'T GIVING ME A SAMPLE...
Oh?

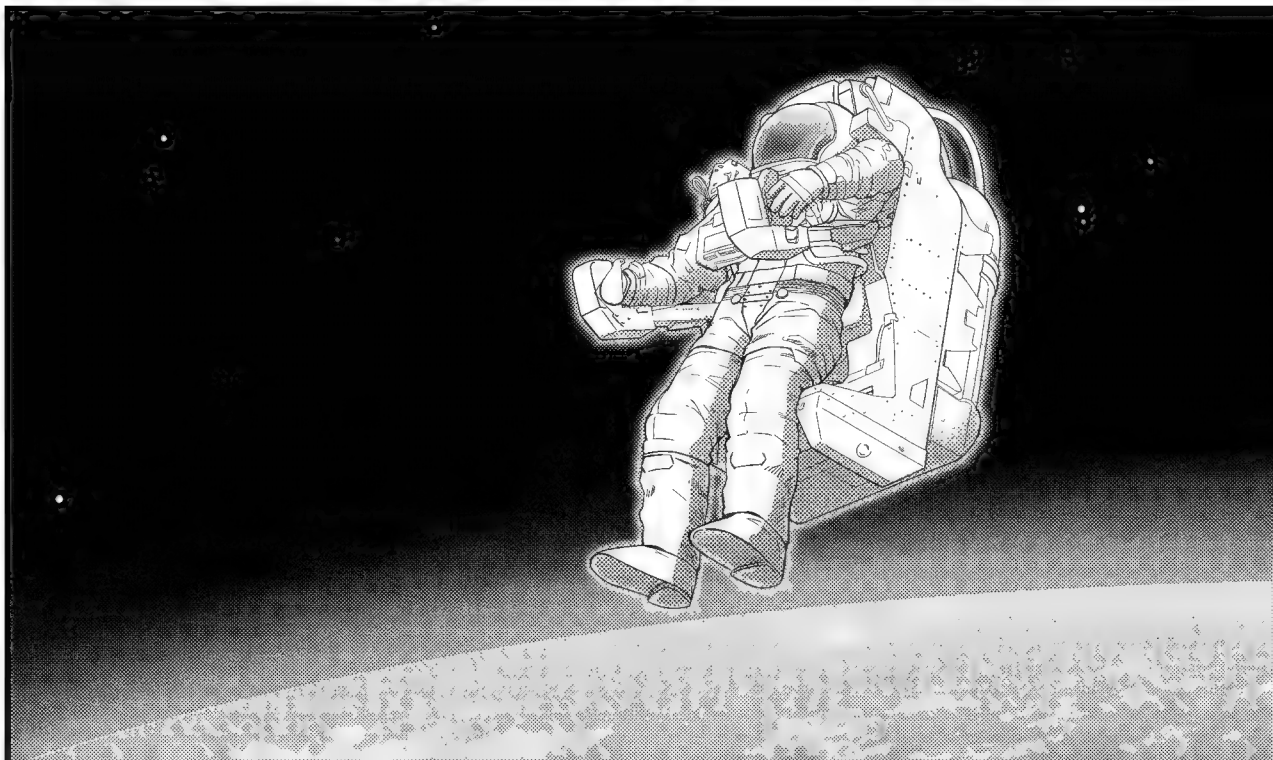

...
...

OH! OF COURSE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
EXCUSE ME. I'D LIKE A BOX OF THESE CHOCOLATES, PLEASE.
SHIT ...!
Smile

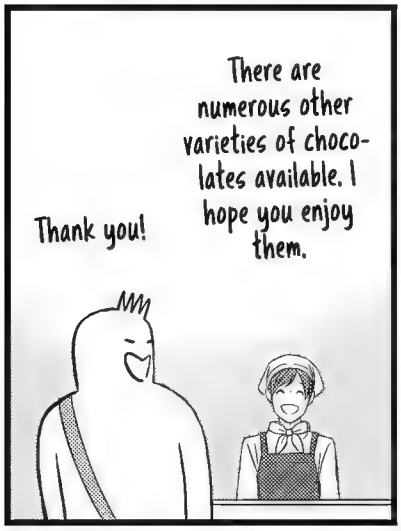
She thinks I'm only window-shopping!
OH, I SEE. I'M A GUY, SO SHE DOESN'T SEE ME AS AN ACTUAL CUSTOMER...!
THIS IS KINDA FRUS-TRATING!

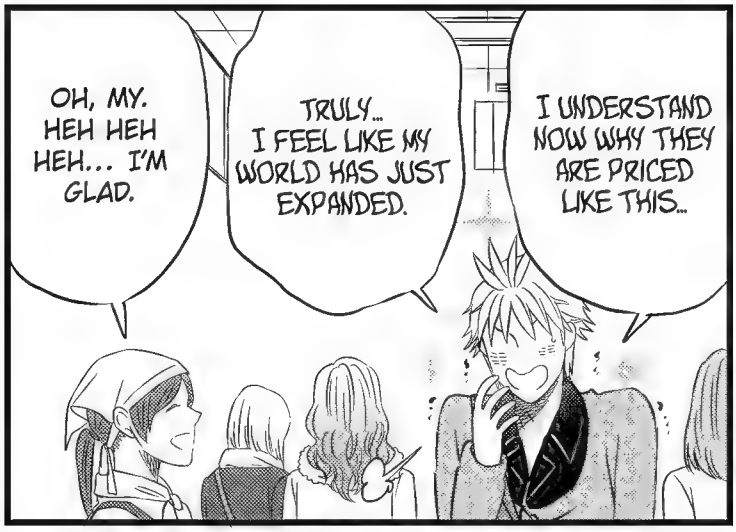
JUST HOW DELICIOUS CAN IT BE?
GOOD GRIEF... IT'S JUST SO FREAKING EXPENSIVE...
Nom

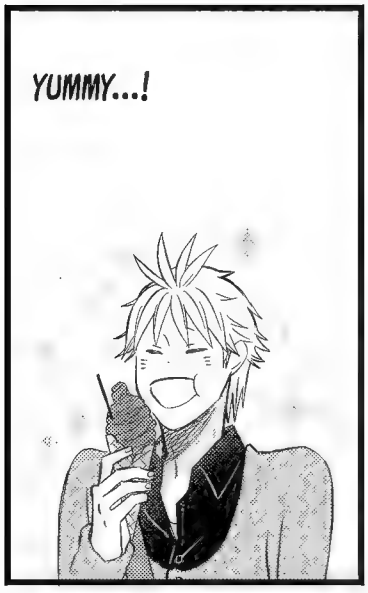
ALL RIGHT!
WHILE I PREPARE THE PACKAGE, PLEASE TRY ONE OF THESE...!
Heh heh!



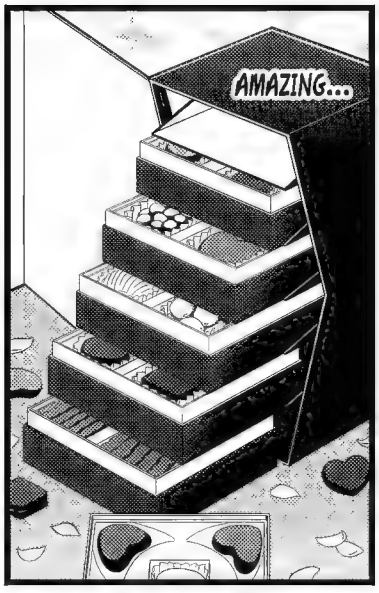
HM?! OH! IS THAT RIGHT? THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THE CHOCOLATE WAS INCREDIBLY DELICIOUS!
AHH... I'M SO SORRY. I GOT DISTRACTED!
YOUR PACKAGE IS READY...
UM, SIR?
AH!
I COULD SEE THE COSMOS!

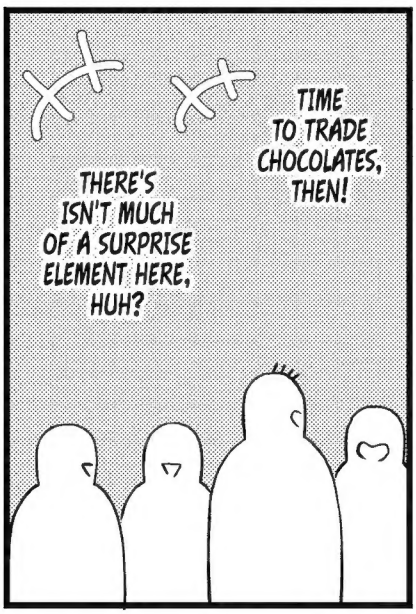

There are numerous other varieties of chocolates available. I hope you enjoy them.
Thank you!

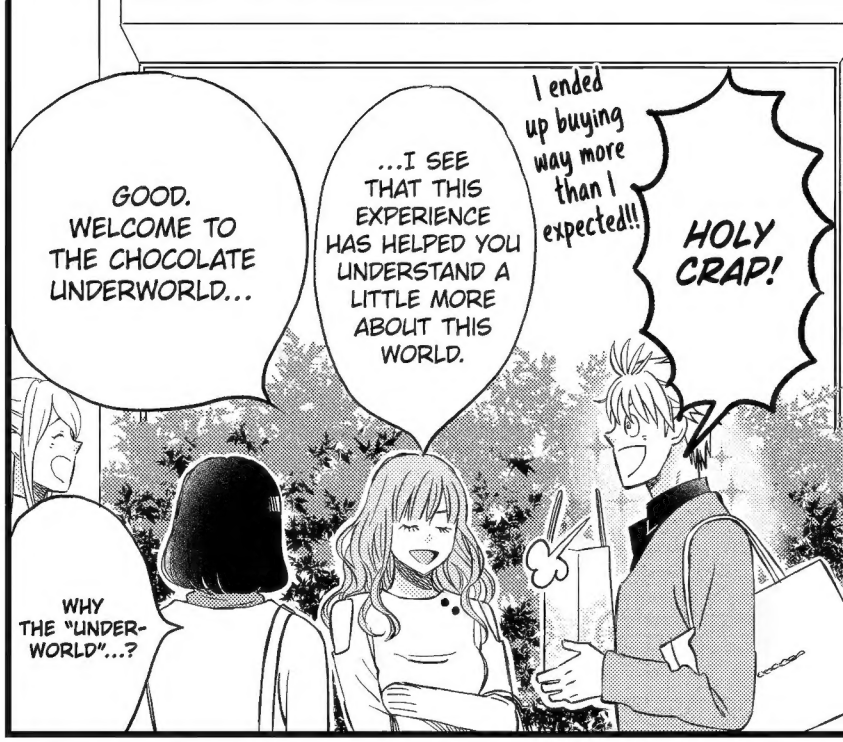

OH, MY. HEH HEH HEH... I'M GLAD.
TRULY... I FEEL LIKE MY WORLD HAS JUST EXPANDED.
I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY THEY ARE PRICED LIKE THIS...


YUMMY...!

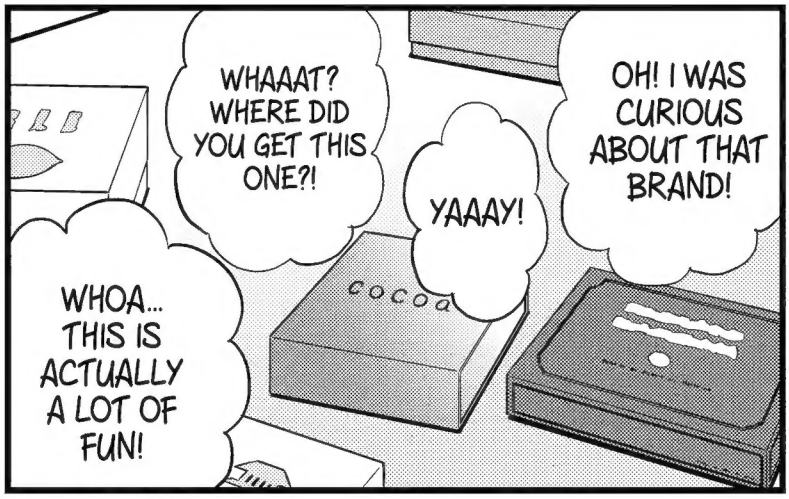
THE WORLD OF CHOCOLATE IS AMAZING...!
Soft Serve Cream Cone
¥660
¥660

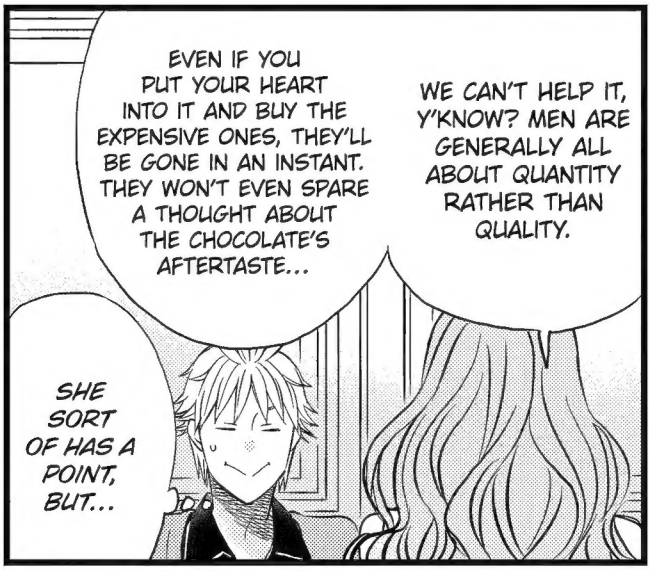

AMAZING...

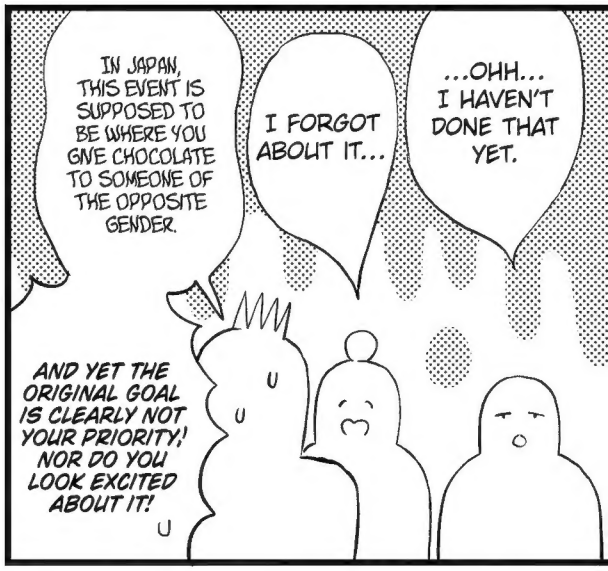

THERE'S ISN'T MUCH OF A SURPRISE ELEMENT HERE, HUH?
TIME TO TRADE CHOCOLATES, THEN!


GOOD. WELCOME TO THE CHOCOLATE UNDERWORLD...
...I SEE THAT THIS EXPERIENCE HAS HELPED YOU UNDERSTAND A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THIS WORLD.
I ended up buying way more than I expected!!
HOLY CRAP!
WHY THE "UNDER-WORLD"...?

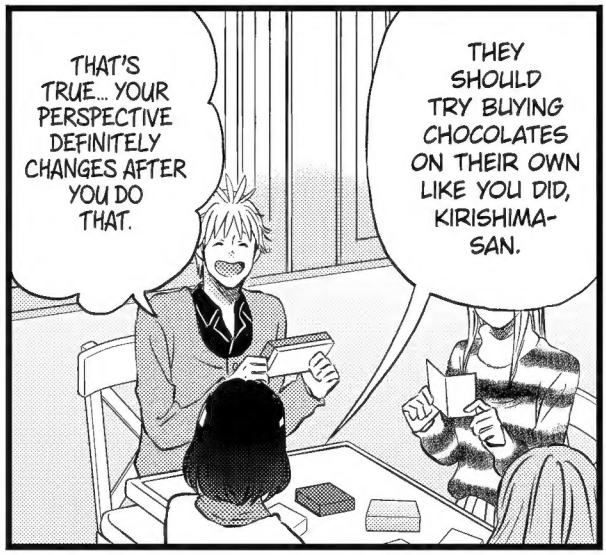
DID YOU ALSO BUY SOME FOR YOUR HUSBAND?
Oh, right...

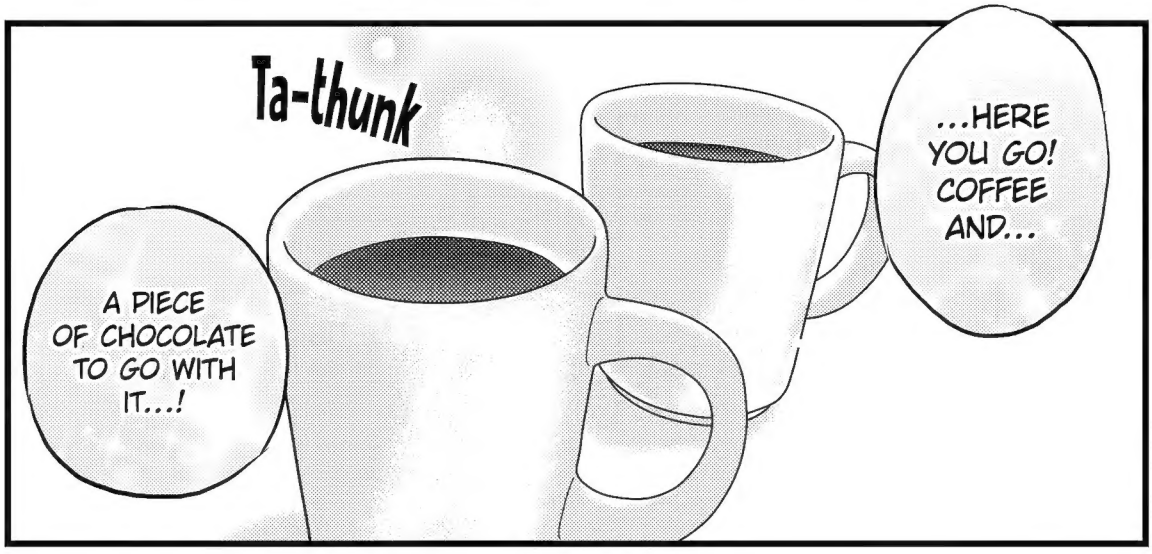

WHAAAT? WHERE DID YOU GET THIS ONE?!
YAAAY!
OH! I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THAT BRAND!
WHOA... THIS IS ACTUALLY A LOT OF FUN!
cocoa

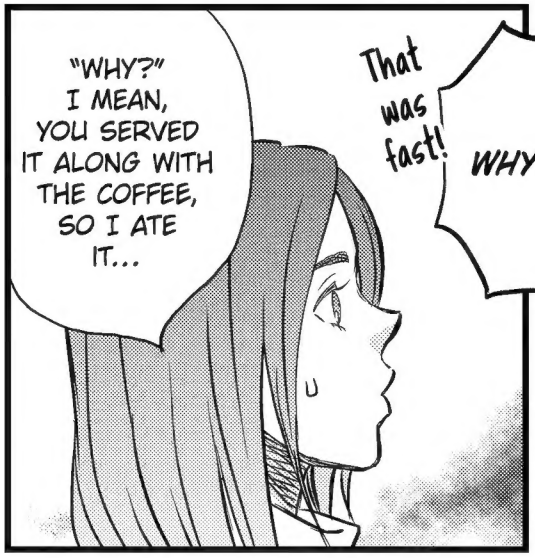

EVEN IF YOU PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT AND BUY THE EXPENSIVE ONES, THEY'LL BE GONE IN AN INSTANT. THEY WON'T EVEN SPARE A THOUGHT ABOUT THE CHOCOLATE'S AFTERTASTE...
WE CAN'T HELP IT, Y'KNOW? MEN ARE GENERALLY ALL ABOUT QUANTITY RATHER THAN QUALITY.
SHE SORT OF HAS A POINT, BUT...

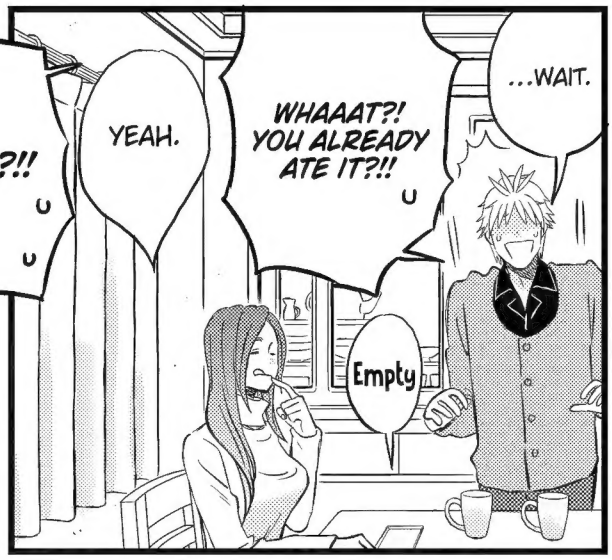

IN JAPAN, THIS EVENT IS SUPPOSED TO BE WHERE YOU GIVE CHOCOLATE TO SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE GENDER.
I FORGOT ABOUT IT...
...OHH... I HAVEN'T DONE THAT YET.
AND YET THE ORIGINAL GOAL IS CLEARLY NOT YOUR PRIORITY! NOR DO YOU LOOK EXCITED ABOUT IT!

THEY'RE GOING TO LOVE IT...
I'LL SERVE THESE TONIGHT AFTER DINNER.

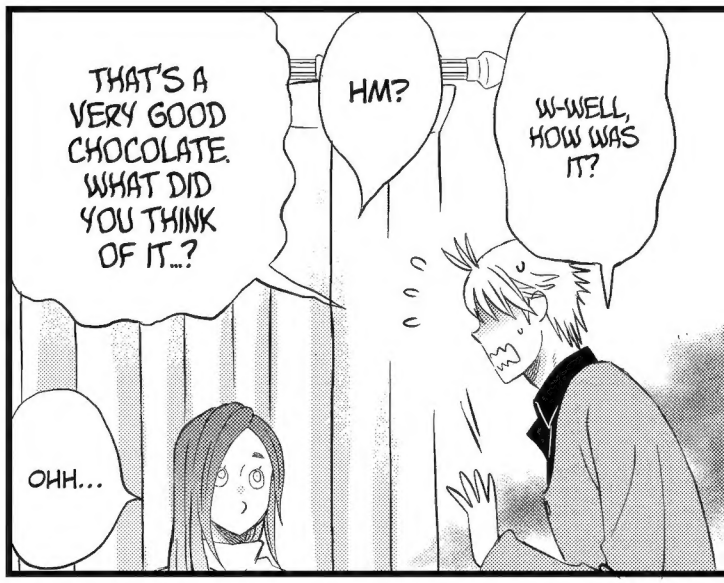

THAT'S TRUE... YOUR PERSPECTIVE DEFINITELY CHANGES AFTER YOU DO THAT.
THEY SHOULD TRY BUYING CHOCOLATES ON THEIR OWN LIKE YOU DID, KIRISHIMA-SAN.

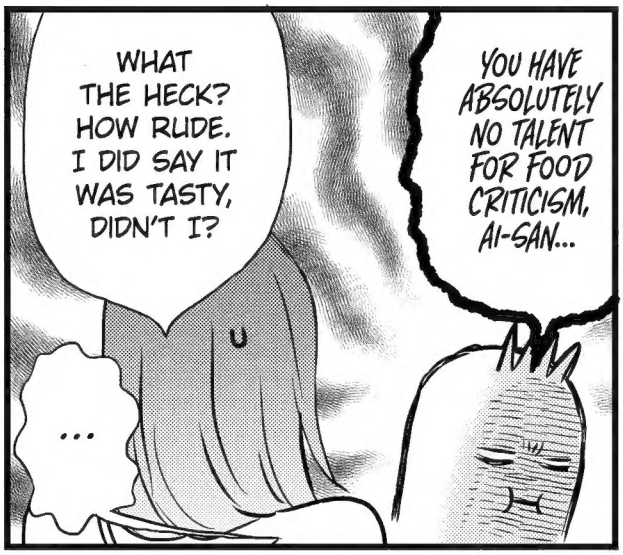

Ta-thunk
...HERE YOU GO! COFFEE AND...
A PIECE OF CHOCOLATE TO GO WITH IT...!


"WHY?" I MEAN, YOU SERVED IT ALONG WITH THE COFFEE, SO I ATE IT...
That was fast!
WHY?!!

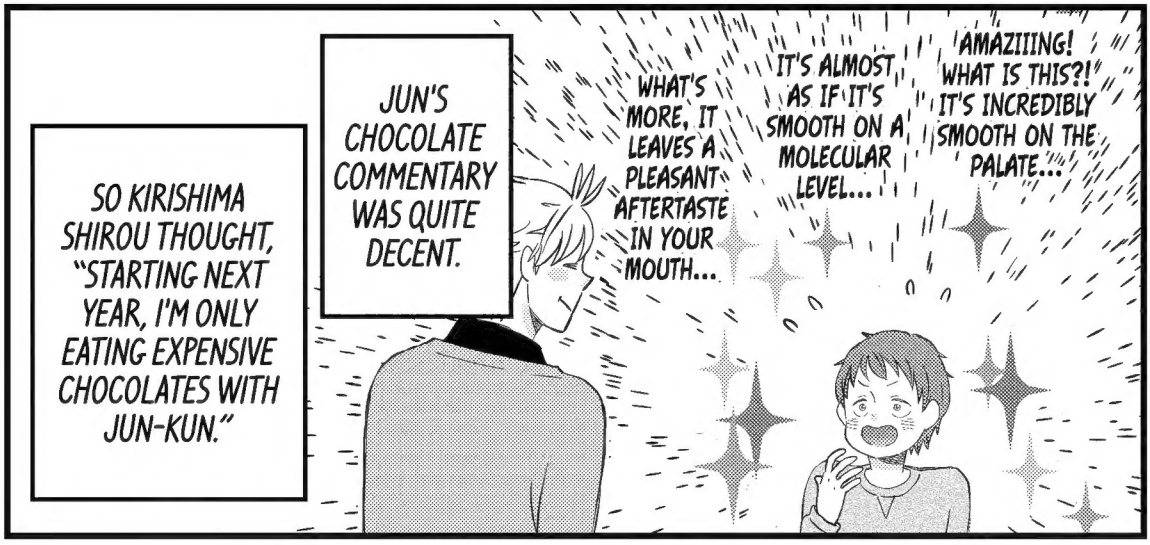

YEAH.
WHAAAT?! YOU ALREADY ATE IT?!!
...WAIT.
Empty

IT WAS TASTY.
Lukewarm...


W-WELL, HOW WAS IT?
HM?
THAT'S A VERY GOOD CHOCOLATE. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF IT...?
OHH...


YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO TALENT FOR FOOD CRITICISM, AI-SAN...
WHAT THE HECK? HOW RUDE. I DID SAY IT WAS TASTY, DIDN'T I?
...

...
THAT'S IT?
HUH?! IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD SAY?
...


SO KIRISHIMA SHIROU THOUGHT, "STARTING NEXT YEAR, I'M ONLY EATING EXPENSIVE CHOCOLATES WITH JUN-KUN."
JUN'S CHOCOLATE COMMENTARY WAS QUITE DECENT.
WHAT'S MORE, IT LEAVES A PLEASANT AFTERTASTE IN YOUR MOUTH...
IT'S ALMOST AS IF IT'S SMOOTH ON A MOLECULAR LEVEL...
AMAZIIING! WHAT IS THIS?! IT'S INCREDIBLY SMOOTH ON THE PALATE...